

Section 5

ABTRACTOR (TYPE OF DEATH)

Death type: IncTyp

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Name	Definition
IncTyp	Type of incident leading to the victim's injury (e.g., homicide, suicide) as assigned by the abstractor according to the NVDRS protocol

Uses

A coding system to differentiate victims of interpersonal violence, intentional self-harm, and unintentional injury is vital to any injury surveillance system because of the importance of intent type to prevention strategies. This variable provides a uniform protocol for categorizing intent type.

Discussion

The code is assigned by surveillance personnel based on reading CME reports and police information about the case. In some cases, Death Type may differ from the manner of death assigned by the medical examiner because of the slight difference in categories used and because medical examiner protocols for defining intent vary across jurisdictions and across individual CMEs. A clear unintentional shooting of one child by another, for example, may be categorized as an accident by one medical examiner and a homicide by another. The protocol for defining Death Type is included in the Definition section of the manual. Please read this section. If the facts of the case are clear and not in dispute, apply the NVDRS definitions in assigning Death Type. If the facts of the case are unclear or in dispute, default to the CME's determination of manner. For example, if the record states, "Two 13-year-old adolescents were playing around with a gun that they thought was unloaded when one unintentionally shot the other," even if the coroner classified the case as a homicide, code "IncTyp" as "4-Unintentional, inflicted by other person". However, if the record stated "A 13-year-old teenager shot another 13-year-old; conflicting reports exist as to whether the shooting was intentional," default to the CME's classification of manner of death. The purpose of this variable is not to second guess the CME or to enable an abstractor to come to his or her own conclusion about the case; rather the purpose is to characterize the conclusions of the official death investigation about the intent type of the incident by using a uniform set of definitions of each intent type code.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
IncTyp	Death type:	Person	Number	1	LR	SYS

Response Options:

IncTyp	
1	Suicide or intentional self-harm
2	Homicide
3	Unintentional – self-inflicted
4	Unintentional – inflicted by other person
5	Unintentional – unknown who inflicted

Person/Abstractor

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 | Legal intervention (by police or other authority) |
| 7 | Terrorism homicide |
| 8 | Terrorism suicide |
| 9 | Undetermined intent |

Data Standards or Guidelines

Based on International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, broad “external cause of injury” categories.